Documentation of cases - By Faktoje

• TEMA

The most recent accusation was published in an article by **TEMA Newspaper** on **12 September 2024**. The article alleges that Faktoje is a "misleading project" that fails to fulfill its mission of promoting media integrity, instead misusing donor funds for inefficient or unclear purposes. According to the report, Faktoje receives significant international funding but lacks transparency in how these funds are utilized, leading to questions about its effectiveness and accountability.

Java.al also republished the article – <u>here</u>.

• ALTIN GOXHAJ

A series of allegations have surfaced against **Faktoje.al**, a fact-checking organization in Albania, accusing it of mismanagement of donor funds and media censorship. These claims, which have been propagated by **Altin Goxhaj**, a prominent critic of Soros-backed initiatives, have circulated through various media platforms.

Altin Goxhaj appeared on a <u>TV show</u> to attack Faktoje as a fact-checking organization in partnership with Facebook, alleging that it is sponsored by George Soros to censor the voice of the people.

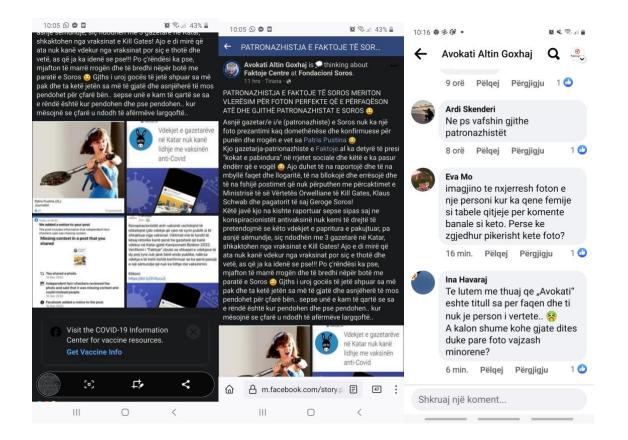
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTxyFb2wqe0&t=3366s

During it, he made public the picture of Faktoje's CEO, as well as our staff's personal data. In a <u>Facebook post</u> wherein he denounced the HPV vaccine, he warned Faktoje that he was watching our finances closely.

On December 8 2022, he <u>posted on Facebook</u> that he was suing BIRN Albania, an organization unrelated to Faktoje, for defamation. He also said that he was suing Faktoje.al, as well. However, the issue at the basis of this alleged suit, his inclusion in a extremist list, has nothing to do with Faktoje and is not within the scope of our work. Nonetheless, he continued to include Faktoje in <u>his</u> <u>subsequent posts</u> about the <u>"Soros Mafia"</u> and his alleged suit against them. His consistent mentioning of Faktoje with regards to issues that have nothing to do with it has inspired vitriol and risks alienating our audience. He is consistent in slandering Faktoje's name and damaging its image by associating us with issues that are entirely unrelated to us, even as he fails to provide any tangible accusations, let alone evidence. His slander campaign includes also manufacturing conflict, as in the case when he claimed that Faktoje, alongside BIRN, would brand as a far-right extremist a representative of the diaspora who spoke against the depopulation of Albania. Meanwhile, Faktoje deals no such designations, and this falls entirely outside our line of work, fact-checking.

<u>A Facebook post, on December 17, 2022.</u> Where a user Altin Goxhaj posted about one of your employees, which was then shared <u>Here, Here, </u>

-He has also harassed one journalist of Faktoje us publishing personal information and photos of her when she was minor.



In addition to financial mismanagement, **Altin Goxhaj** has taken to social media to accuse Faktoje of censorship. On **22 March 2024**, Goxhaj claimed in a Facebook post that Faktoje, in collaboration with Facebook, deleted one of his posts for containing alleged hate speech toward **French President Emmanuel Macron** and **European Council President Charles Michel**. He argued that this action was not about hate speech but rather part of a broader censorship agenda orchestrated by Faktoje and other Soros-affiliated organizations, aimed at silencing voices critical of international elites.

Goxhaj's censorship claims have been done previously as when he announced on **Instagram on 17 January 2023** that Facebook had permanently banned him. He alleged that this was a direct result of his critical posts about Faktoje and accused the organization of working with political "patronazhistët" to stifle dissent. He claims that this pattern of censorship is part of a wider strategy by Soros-affiliated networks to control public discourse in Albania.

Further allegations appeared in an article published by <u>Hashtag.al</u> on 13 October 2022, where Goxhaj accused **Delina Fico** and **Klodiana Kapo**, Faktoje's executive director, of exercising undue influence over media outlets. He claimed that these individuals were controlling censorship and deciding which narratives could be published, particularly those critical of certain international actors. According to Goxhaj, this is another example of how Faktoje and its leadership are part of a broader effort to control the flow of information in the Albanian media landscape.

• JETA OSHT QEJF

JOQ - "Life is fun" has been the initiator of the campaign of denigration and personal attacks against Justice Kodiana Kapo of Faktoje.

A media often known as one of the sources that spreads disinformation in Albania, with over 2 million followers, on April 28, 2022 personally attacked Mrs. Kapo putting it on the Harram list of the month, together with the murderer of 4 women and another murderer, inviting the public to vote.

See <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>

Also, in other cases JOQ has tried to throw mud on the work of Faktoje with the purpose of intimidation.

Also <u>here</u>.

• Iranian Propaganda

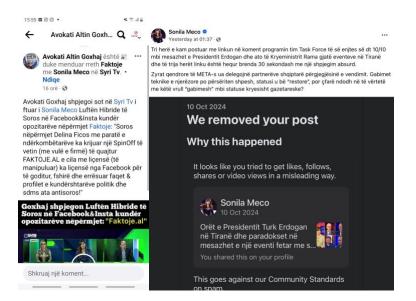
Another attack on Faktoje was registered by a portal known for Iranian propaganda in Albania. <u>Gazeta IMPACT</u> and <u>another portal</u>, which publishes the same articles in English, have targeted the journalist by posting photos, exposing her to online lynching.

• PAMFLETI

Another attack on Faktoje was the attack in connection with another verification, the accusations and the lynching of Faktoje have attacked Faktoje, trying to throw mud for political connections. <u>Here</u>

• SONILA MECO

Sonila Meco has been another public figure who has had a very hostile attitude towards Faktoje. Even though in many cases it has been explained to Ms Meco that Faktoje is not responsible for the removal of the materials, sending her additional explanatory materials in a specific case such as the local elections 2023, but in the following she continued accusing Faktoje even in some cases without mentioning, but by saying that the Third-Party local partners of META (which is Faktoje) are removing her posts. <u>Here</u>



Faktoje's partnership with Facebook as a local fact-checker is part of global efforts to fight disinformation, particularly in environments where media standards are under pressure. By verifying and correcting false information, Faktoje helps prevent harmful content that could incite violence or polarize opinions. It operates within Facebook's Third-Party Fact-Checking Program, ensuring flagged content meets international fact-based standards. Allegations of censorship against Faktoje must be viewed in light of its mission to promote responsible journalism and public accountability, especially in Albania, where disinformation can fuel political manipulation and other harmful narratives.